

# LigPrep Command Options

The syntax of the `ligprep` command is as follows.

```
$SCHRODINGER/ligprep [options|meta-options] {-imae|-isd|-ismi} infile {-omae|-osd} outfile
```

The options are listed in [Table 1](#), grouped by stage. The meta-options are listed in [Table 2](#), and the action of the meta-options is explained in [Table 3](#). The `ligprep` command also supports the standard Job Control options, which are described in [Section 2.3](#) of the *Job Control Guide*, and some other job options, which are listed in [Table 4](#). Options for `para_ligprep` are listed in [Table 5](#); `para_ligprep` passes any other options on to the `ligprep` command. `para_ligprep` is used to distribute LigPrep jobs over multiple processors, and has the same syntax as `ligprep`.

Table 1. Options for the `ligprep` command

Option	Definition																								
<b>General</b>																									
-a	Append structures to the output file. Default is to overwrite the output file if it already exists.																								
-inp <i>filename</i>	Use input file to obtain values for options. Values given on the command line supersede values given in the input file.																								
-kp   -keep_props	Transmit properties from input to output at each stage, and retain properties in the output structure file. The <i>ionizer</i> and <i>bmin</i> delete properties by default.																								
-ma <i>number</i>	Skip over structures containing more than this number of atoms in some steps. Default: 150.																								
-n <i>structs</i>	Specify a comma-delimited series of colon-separated ranges and single values to convert. For example: 1:10,14 Structures 1 through 10, and 14 2: Structures 2 through end of file :5,13:18 Structures 1 through 5, and 13 through 18 Default: 1: (convert all structures)																								
-nc	Do not remove intermediate files. Default is to remove intermediate files.																								
-np	Remove files containing problematic structures. Default is to keep problematic structure files.																								
-R {b c d e f h i n p r s t}	Run only the stage of ligand preparation specified by the letter code: <table><tr><td>b</td><td>bmin minimization</td><td>i</td><td>ionizer</td></tr><tr><td>c</td><td>sdconvert</td><td>n</td><td>neutralizer</td></tr><tr><td>d</td><td>desalter</td><td>p</td><td>premin</td></tr><tr><td>e</td><td>epik</td><td>r</td><td>ring_conf</td></tr><tr><td>f</td><td>filter (ligfilter)</td><td>s</td><td>stereoizer</td></tr><tr><td>h</td><td>applyhtreat</td><td>t</td><td>tautomerizer</td></tr></table>	b	bmin minimization	i	ionizer	c	sdconvert	n	neutralizer	d	desalter	p	premin	e	epik	r	ring_conf	f	filter (ligfilter)	s	stereoizer	h	applyhtreat	t	tautomerizer
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-sif_docs	Display documentation for the simplified input file, and exit.																								
-verb	Report on the progress of the ligand preparation.																								
-W <i>string</i>	Options for various stages of ligand preparation. <i>string</i> consists of comma-separated designators. The first designator specifies the program that options are to be passed to and must be one of: <table><tr><td>ci</td><td>sdconvert on input structures</td></tr><tr><td>co</td><td>sdconvert on output structures</td></tr><tr><td>e</td><td>epik</td></tr><tr><td>f</td><td>filter (ligfilter or ligparse)</td></tr><tr><td>i</td><td>ionizer</td></tr><tr><td>qp</td><td>qikprop</td></tr><tr><td>r</td><td>ring_conf</td></tr><tr><td>s</td><td>stereoizer</td></tr></table>	ci	sdconvert on input structures	co	sdconvert on output structures	e	epik	f	filter (ligfilter or ligparse)	i	ionizer	qp	qikprop	r	ring_conf	s	stereoizer								
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Table 1. Options for the `ligprep` command (Continued)

Option	Definition
	<p>The remaining designators are passed to the program in the order specified with the commas removed. For example: <code>r,-l,1,-n,16</code> passes the arguments <code>-l 1 -n 16</code> to <code>ring_conf</code>. Multiple <code>-W</code> options are permitted, but only the last one pertaining to a particular program is used. For <code>ring_conf</code> and <code>stereoizer</code>, these options are used in addition to the default options and override redundant specifications.</p> <p>When <code>ligparse</code> is in use, it is passed the following arguments by default: <code>-any -j 5</code> (filter by rejecting structures if any criteria listed in the filter file are matched). If the <code>-W</code> option is used to pass arguments to <code>ligparse</code>, the default set of arguments is not used by <code>ligparse</code>.</p>
<b>Desalting</b>	
<code>-nd</code>	Do not use the desalter. Default is to use the desalter.
<b>Ionization</b>	
<code>-emb</code>	Use the Epik metal binding option for ionization and tautomerization of ligands bound to protein metals. An alternative form of this option is <code>-epik_metal_binding</code> .
<code>-epik</code>	Use Epik for the ionization and tautomerization stages.
<code>-es filename</code>	Use the specified nonstandard Epik $pK_a$ file.
<code>-i number</code>	<p>Ionization treatment</p> <p>0 Do not neutralize or ionize.</p> <p>1 Neutralize only.</p> <p>2 Neutralize and ionize.</p> <p>Default: 1. Ionization is performed by default with the <code>ionizer</code>. If <code>-epik</code> is used, this option only controls neutralization.</p>
<code>-is filename</code>	Use non-standard <code>ionizer</code> specification file, named <i>filename</i> .
<code>-mbs filename</code>	Use the specified nonstandard Epik metal binding file.
<code>-mg number</code>	Instruct <code>ionizer</code> to skip structures that have more than this number of ionizable groups. Default: 10
<b>Tautomerization</b>	
<code>-emb</code>	Use Epik metal binding option for ionization and tautomerization of ligands bound to protein metals. An alternative form of this option is <code>-epik_metal_binding</code> .
<code>-epik</code>	Use Epik for the ionization and tautomerization stages.
<code>-mbs filename</code>	Use the specified nonstandard Epik metal binding file.
<code>-nt</code>	Do not generate tautomers. Default is to generate tautomers.
<code>-t number</code>	Generate up to <i>number</i> tautomers per input structure. Default: 8
<code>-ts filename</code>	Specify a custom tautomer database.
<code>-tp number</code>	Set the minimum tautomerization probability to <i>number</i> , where $0 < number < 1.0$ . Structures with net tautomerization probabilities lower than this value are not retained. Default: 0.01
<b>Stereoisomers</b>	
<code>-ac</code>	Do not respect existing chirality properties or use chiralities from the input geometry. Generate stereoisomers for all chiral centers up to the number permitted (specified using the <code>-s</code> option).
<code>-g</code>	Respect chiralities from input geometry when generating stereoisomers. For chiral centers whose chirality cannot be determined from the input geometry, stereoisomers will be generated.
<code>-ns</code>	Do not generate stereoisomers. Chiral properties in the input file are still enforced. Default is to generate stereoisomers.
<code>-s number</code>	Generate up to <i>number</i> stereoisomers per input structure. Default: 32

Table 1. Options for the `ligprep` command (Continued)

Option	Definition
<b>Ring conformations</b>	
<code>-l number</code>	Control how <code>ring_conf</code> handles atoms that are not in flexible rings. 1 Use input geometries. 2 Use idealized geometries even for rigid rings. 3 Use idealized geometries for non-ring portions and input geometries for rigid rings. Default: 3
<code>-r number</code>	Generate up to <i>number</i> ring conformations per input structure. Default: 1
<code>-re number</code>	Generate ring conformations with energies lower than <i>number</i> (kJ/mol) relative to the lowest energy conformer. This number sets the maximum number of ring conformers to 8 unless a different number is provided using the <code>-r</code> option.
<b>Filtering</b>	
<code>-f filename</code>	Filter structures using filtering criteria from <i>filename</i> . Default: do not filter.
<code>-fc filename</code>	Use custom composite descriptors for <code>ligparse</code> from <i>filename</i> . Only valid when used with <code>-f</code> and <code>-use_ligparse</code> . Default: use composite descriptors from <code>composite.types</code> file in the installation.
<code>-fs filename</code>	Use custom SMARTS patterns (descriptors) for <code>ligparse</code> from <i>filename</i> . Only valid when used with <code>-f</code> and <code>-use_ligparse</code> . Default: use composite descriptors from <code>str_keys.types</code> file in the installation.
<code>-lab</code>	Add an internal tracking label that can be used for filtering.
<code>-lab_filter options</code>	Filter the output based on the tracking labels introduced with <code>-lab</code> , which is turned on by this option. The filtering process is controlled by the options. Only one option is supported: <code>ionizer:n</code> —select at most <i>n</i> output structures for each ionizer input structure such that the formal charge on each ionizable group is minimized.
<code>-lp</code>	Include calculated <code>ligfilter</code> properties in the output structure file. Not valid with <code>-use_ligparse</code> , which includes properties by default.
<code>-use_ligparse</code>	Use <code>ligparse</code> for filtering. Default: use <code>ligfilter</code> .
<b>Final optimization</b>	
<code>-bff number</code>	Instruct <code>bmin</code> to use the force field specified. Only 10 (MMFFs), 11 (OPLS_2001), and 14 (OPLS_2005, default) are supported.
<code>-bvac</code>	Perform <code>bmin</code> minimization in a vacuum. By default <code>bmin</code> minimizations are carried out using a distance-dependent dielectric.
<code>-br</code>	Instruct <code>bmin</code> to retain structures with incorrect chiralities.
<code>-bns</code>	Instruct <code>bmin</code> to perform minimizations only. By default, <code>bmin</code> performs short conformational searches on distorted structures.
<code>-btc number</code>	Torsional constraints to use in <code>bmin</code> . -1 Do not use torsional constraints. 0, 1 Torsional constraints for C=C, carboxylic acids, esters and amides. 2 Torsional constraints for C=C.
<code>-bts number</code>	Torsional sampling level to use in <code>bmin</code> . Overrides the <code>-btc</code> option and sets it to 1. 0 Restricted 1 Intermediate 2 Enhanced 3 Extended For a definition of the levels, see <a href="#">page 80</a> of the <i>MacroModel User Manual</i>

Table 2. Meta-options for the `ligprep` command. Suffix values are given for each meta-option that requires a suffix.

Option	Description
<code>-adjust_suffix</code>	Adjust to a suitable state. Any combination of <code>c</code> (chirality), <code>i</code> (ionization states) or <code>t</code> (tautomers) can be used for <i>suffix</i> .
<code>-expand_suffix</code>	Aggressively expand states. Any combination of <code>c</code> (chirality), <code>i</code> (ionization states) or <code>t</code> (tautomers) can be used for <i>suffix</i> .
<code>-retain_suffix</code>	Retain the original state in the output. Any combination of <code>c</code> (chirality), <code>i</code> (ionization states) or <code>t</code> (tautomers) can be used for <i>suffix</i> . Suffix values determine which state is kept. If <i>suffix</i> is <code>i</code> , both the original ionization state and the original tautomer are retained.
<code>-qik</code>	Set defaults appropriate for QikProp. Turns on the desalter and the tautomerizer.
<code>-unt</code>	Run <code>premin</code> and <code>bmin</code> to untangle structures. Used by CombiGlide.
<code>-vary_suffix</code>	Generate a small number of states. Any combination of <code>c</code> (chirality), <code>i</code> (ionization states) or <code>t</code> (tautomers) can be used for <i>suffix</i> .

Table 3. Action performed by meta-options.

Suffix	Action of <code>adjust</code>	Action of <code>vary</code>	Action of <code>expand</code>
<code>c</code>	Produce only one stereoisomer	Produce at most 2 stereoisomers	Produce at most 32 stereoisomers
<code>i</code>	Produce the ionization state with the lowest overall penalty	Set pH tolerance to 1.0	Set pH tolerance to 2.0
<code>t</code>	Produce only the most probable tautomer	Produce at most the 2 most probable tautomers	Produce at most the 8 most probable tautomers

Table 4. Other job options supported by the `ligprep` command.

Option	Description
<code>-HOSTFILE filename</code>	The name of the hosts file to use for this run. The default hosts file is the installed version of <code>schrodinger.hosts</code> .
<code>-INTERVAL sec</code>	The maximum time in seconds between updates of the <code>jobname.log</code> file.
<code>-LOCAL</code>	Do not use a temporary directory for intermediate files. Keep files in the current working directory.
<code>-WAIT</code>	Do not return control to the shell until the job finishes.

Table 5. Options for the `para_ligprep` command, including job control options.

Option	Description
<code>-first firstlig</code>	First ligand to include. Default 1.
<code>-HELP   -h[elp]</code>	Print usage message and exit.
<code>-HOSTFILE filename</code>	The name of the hosts file to use for this run.
<code>-INTERVAL sec</code>	The maximum time in seconds between updates of the <code>jobname.log</code> file.
<code>-j jobnum</code>	Subjob number to prepare. Default 0, meaning all subjobs. Must not be negative.
<code>-JOBCTS maxctsjob</code>	Ensure that each subjob has no more than this many structures to process. Default: 10000.
<code>-last lastlig</code>	Last ligand to include. Default 0, meaning the last ligand in the file.
<code>-LOCAL</code>	Do not use a temporary directory to store the files. Store files in the local directory.

Table 5. Options for the `para_ligprep` command, including job control options. (Continued)

Option	Description
<code>-nproc njobs</code>   <code>-NJOBS njobs</code>	Divide the overall job into <i>njobs</i> subjobs.
<code>-nx</code>	Create input files for subjobs and exit; do not run the job.
<code>-OUTPUT_ORG BY_SUBJOB</code>	Produce one output file for each subjob.
<code>-v[er[sion]]</code>	Report the version number for <code>para_ligprep</code>
<code>-WAIT</code>	Do not return control to the shell until the job finishes.